

3 July 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Human Resources Committee

FROM: [ ] Secretariat

SUBJECT: Second OSCOL Meeting, 30 June 1978

1. The second OSCOL meeting of the ad hoc working group got off on something of a sour note. The meeting was held at CIA Headquarters in the Office of Central Reference, [ ]

[ ] the CIA library; the SAFE program (close machine records support to intelligence analysts); CIA's storage and retrieval data banks, et.al. The purpose was to let the working group members get a first-hand detailed briefing on these activities, to go along with the briefings that they will get at each of the other key organizational entities engaged in OSCOL activities, so they will be equipped to carry out the OSCOL tasks which they have agreed to do.

2. Harry Eisenbeiss, Director of OCR, opened the briefing with a very candid rundown on the state of OCR and its interaction with the OSCOL world, past, present and future, including the following points: During recent years OCR has been reduced about 50% in personnel, and its operating funds have been reduced accordingly. In vain, they appealed to other organizations to contribute some resources so that OCR could continue its past level of service-of-common-concern activities, especially responding to request from other organizations for search and retrieval of reports and other stored documents on given topics. When that failed they necessarily cut back on OCR's services of common concern; expansion of such activities in the present environment is not realistic.

3. Harry noted that I had commented to Susan [ ] that there does not appear to be one place in the community where one can get a birds eye view of what documents are being collected by what organizations. Harry said that in the most recent budget submission he had proposed, as an "enhancement" item, an activity which would have corrected that situation, but it was thrown out. (This is essentially true. The decision package in question called for extension of the CIA library automation system to include foreign serial publications [ ] in the Foreign Publications Procurement Program, and an expanded collection program to obtain foreign and domestic S&T publications in support of intelligence production. According to [ ] in OPBD, all of OCR's enhanced packages were turned down.) Harry made other points, the central theme of which was, "Unless you can come up with the resources to go with whatever improvement ideas you may generate from all this, forget it." (my words)

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25X1A 4. I discussed with [ ] the reasons why OCR's "enhanced" packages were disallowed. He explained that whatever their merit, they fell casualty to the expanding costs of the SAFE system, which had eaten up all of the flexibility in OCR's budget submission. It is my impression that the result probably would have been the same even if the OSCOL working group had given a ringing endorsement to the "enhanced" package proposals. It is obvious already that these proposals have considerable merit. Once again it comes down to a matter of priority.

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25X1A 5. After [ ] opening comments [ ] gave a 30-minute rundown on OCR's main functions, then we took a five minute break. During the break [ ] and [ ] both disappeared, and did not return. The remaining members of the working group [ ] and I) were treated to a walk-through of OCR function by function. That was very helpful and educational to those present.

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25X1A 6. On 7 July (this Friday) the working group will spend the morning in the Library of Congress' Federal Research Division (Dr. Dodge's unit, which gives OSCOL support to DIA and others). The following Thursday (13th) we go to Dayton, Ohio and Columbus to get briefed on-and examine-the DoD's CIRC system administered by [ ] At Columbus is Battelle Institute, which supports FTD in OSCOL activity in much the same way that the LC/FRD supports DIA, or so I hear.

25X1A 7. [ ] first meeting with DoD translation people has twice been delayed by the latter, and is now set for Thursday, July 6th. I plan to go with him to an initial meeting with [ ] the HRC member from DIA, to see if I can smooth the way for him. Dr. Dodge tells me that he will have a "plan of action" for me in a few days for his task of examining how the many libraries and commercial data banks might better be internettted to support national intelligence production. Similarly, [ ] has begun to identify intelligence analysts in CIA, DIA and INR who normally use ample amounts of open source information in their work, and is gathering Publication Source Survey data about the inputs made by open source collectors, in preparation for his task of identifying ways to improve exploitation of OSCOL materials.

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[ ] The various briefing packages will add up to a catalog of OSCOL functions and present procedures, on which the working group will base its recommendations.

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